

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A melt filter for cleaning a plastic melt issuing from an extruder, the filter comprising:

a wheel rotatable about an axis and having an outer rim and a plurality of spokes forming an annular array of axially open spaces;

a pair of housing plates axially sandwiching and completely covering the wheel and forming offset from the axis a melt passage extending axially through the wheel at the spaces;

removable filter elements braced axially against the wheel at the spaces between the spokes and angularly movable with the wheel with the melt flowing through the filter elements when same are aligned with the passage, one of the plates being formed with an edge cutout of a dimension greater than an angular width of one of the filter elements and smaller or equal to twice this angular width, whereby filter elements can be removed from the wheel at the cutout, an angular spacing between ~~the passage where it passes~~ where the melt flows through the wheel and the cutout being at least equal to the angular filter-element width plus an angular dimension of one of the spokes and at most equal to twice the angular filter-element width plus an angular dimension of one of the spokes;

22 a part on the one housing plate that can cover and close
23 the cutout during normal operation of the melt filter and that can
24 open and uncover the cutout for changing the filter element aligned
25 axially with the cutout; and

26 a ratchet drive engaging the rim and operable to
27 angularly move the wheel about the axis in steps.

9 - 10. (canceled)

1 11. (currently amended) The melt filter defined in
2 claim 8 wherein an area of a spoke area of the disk through against
3 which the melt flows is between 12% and 18% of a total area of the
4 disk.

1 12. (currently amended) The melt filter defined in
2 claim 9 wherein an area of a spoke area of the disk through against
3 which the melt flows is between 14% and 16% of a total area of the
4 disk.

1 13. (currently amended) The melt filter defined in
2 claim 8 wherein each step of the disk exposes a fresh area of the
3 filter disk equal to at most 10% of a total area of the disk
4 against which the melt flows.

1 14. presented) The melt filter defined in claim 13
2 wherein each step of the disk exposes a fresh area of the filter
3 disk equal to between 6% and 7% of a total area of the disk against
4 which the melt flows.